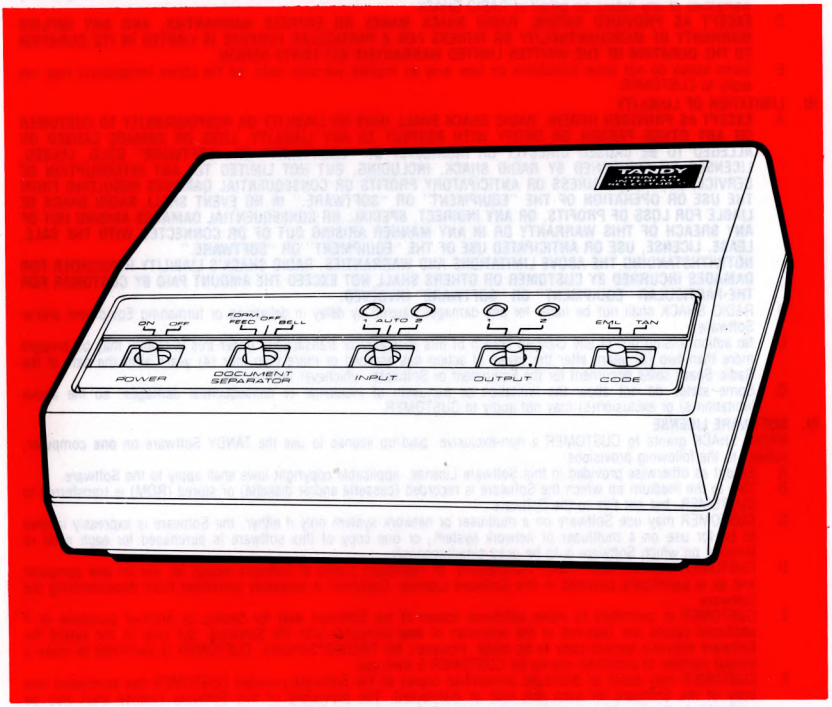
TANDY®

Printer Interface Selector 2

OPERATION MANUAL

Cat. No. 26-2820



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For your own protection, we urge you to record the serial number of this unit in the space provided. You will find the serial number on the back panel of the unit.

Serial Number _____

The FCC wants you to know . . .

Warning: This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions manual, may cause interference to radio communications. It has been tested and has been found to comply with the limits for Class A computing devices pursuant to Subpart J of Part 15 of FCC Rules, which are designed to provide reasonable protection against such interference when operated in a commercial environment. Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause interference in which case the user at his own expense will be required to take whatever measures may be required to correct the interference.

Printer Interface Selector 2 Operation Manual:
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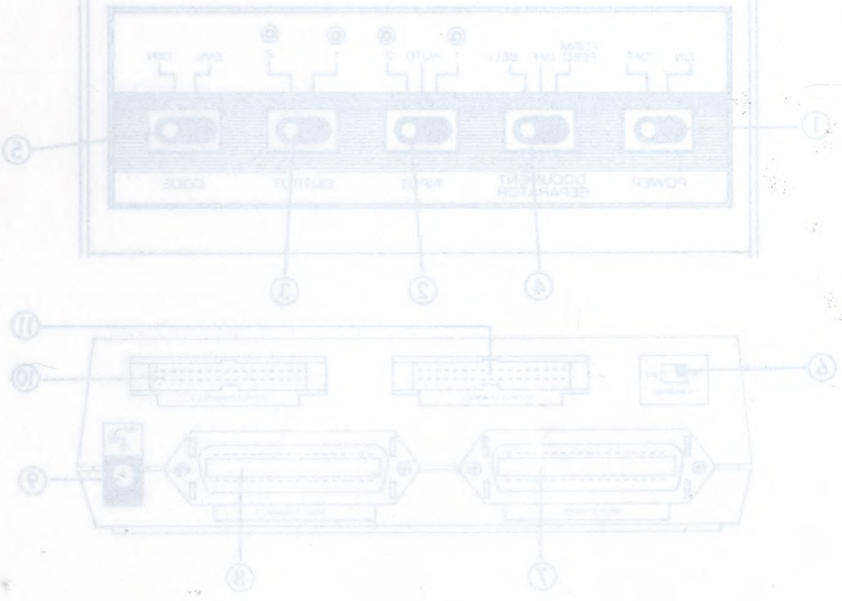


Description of the Selector 2

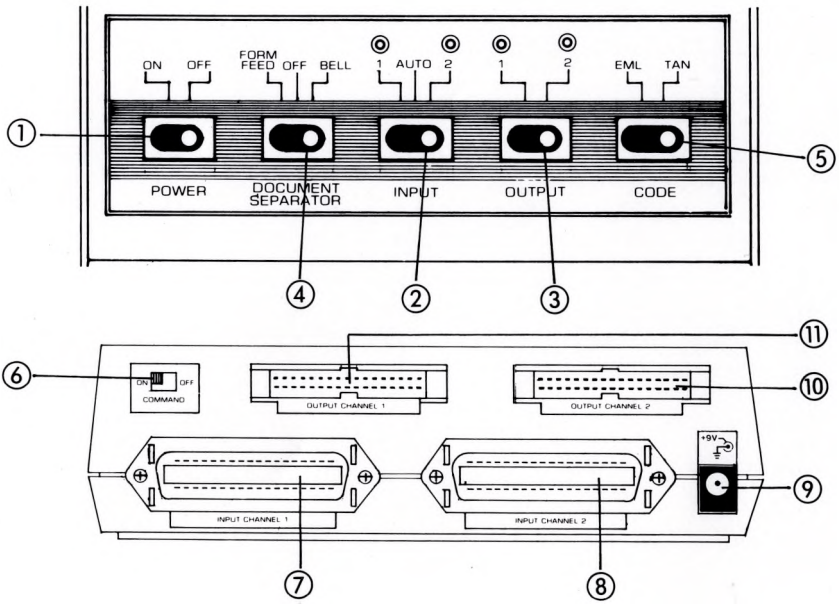
Tandy's Printer Interface Selector 2 offers you the convenience of a two-computer, two-printer hook-up with remote channel selection that you control from your keyboard. This compact device is configured for use with any Tandy computer and printer equipped with Centronics-compatible parallel interfacing.

Channels are selectable by automatic scan (input channel only) and software control codes. Or, you can select the channel manually by moving the panel switch to a specified channel.

The control codes programmed from your computer keyboard are non-printable characters which are recognized by the Selector 2 but may not be forewarded to the printer. If your printer is equipped with IBM ® emulation, you can change the Selector 2's mode setting from Tandy mode to EML mode by sending the proper control codes from your computer.

LED indicators on the front panel always let you know which input channel is locked on and the output channel selected.

Operator controls



POWER Switch ①
Controls power to the Printer Selector 2.

INPUT Switch ②
Slide this switch to position 1 or 2 to manually select INPUT CHANNEL 1 ⑦ or INPUT CHANNEL 2 ⑧. The Selector 2 will remain locked to the selected input channel until the position of the INPUT switch is changed.

If the switch is in the center (AUTO) position, the Selector 2 will sequentially scan the input channels. As input is detected, the INPUT indicator lights steadily and the Selector locks on to that channel as long as the channel transmits.

OUTPUT Switch ③
The initial setting of this switch at power-on determines whether OUTPUT CHANNEL 1 ⑪ or OUTPUT CHANNEL 2 ⑩ is selected. To manually select the channel, slide the OUTPUT switch to either position 1 or 2. Software control codes can also be used to change the channel settings.

DOCUMENT SEPARATOR Switch ④
When the Selector 2 is in automatic input scanning mode, the Selector 2 assumes that a document has ended if there is a 30-second time-out on the active channel, appends a document separator and then resumes the scan. This 3-position switch allows to you to decide whether a document separator will be used at all, and if so, whether it will be FORM FEED or BELL.

When the BELL character is used, the printer may beep provided that it recognizes the character. When the FORM FEED character is selected and the printer recognizes and responds to it, the next document will be printed on a new page. Set this switch to OFF position to disable use of any document separator.

CODE Switch ⑤
Set this switch to TAN position if TANDY printers are used. Otherwise, this switch should be set to EML emulation position for most printers, including EPSON ® printers and compatibles.

If you connect the Selector 2 to two printers of difference makes, set this switch to the one you normally use to print graphics.

COMMAND Switch ⑥
Set this switch to the ON position to enable the Selector 2 to recognize software control codes. Set to OFF to disable control code recognition.

Adapter Socket ⑨

Connects the Selector 2 to a power source.

Interface Cables

One or two computers can be connected to the input channels of the Selector 2. When 1 computer only will be used, either of the 2 input channels can be selected. By using the required output cables (Radio Shack Cat. No. 26-4401, not included), 1 or 2 printers can be connected to the output channels of the Selector 2.

When making the connections, be sure to check the following points:

1. Power to the Printer Interface Selector 2, computers and printers is turned OFF.
2. You have the right cable and that it is connected to the printer or computer with a firm push to secure the clips.

Printer Selection

Jumpers for selecting the initialization signals are provided for each output and input channel inside the selector 2's cabinet for Tandy printers, these signals are on Pin 33 of the output connector. And for most non-Tandy printers, these signals are on Pin 31. The selector 2 is factory preset for use with Tandy printers.

If you have problems when initializing non-Tandy printers, follow the procedure below for changing the jumper positions:

1. Remove the cabinet base of the selector 2 by removing the 4 screws.
2. Carefully remove and relocate the jumpers labeled TAN to the tabs labeled EML, as marked on each input and output channel.
3. Reassemble the selector 2.

CAUTION: Discharge any static electricity build-up from your clothing by touching a grounded metal object to prevent damage to the selector 2.

Power Source

First check that the POWER switch is set to OFF. Insert the plug of the adapter (supplied) in the DC 9-volt socket located on the Selector's rear panel. Then, plug the adapter in an electrical wall outlet or approved power strip.

When power is supplied (switch set to ON), two of the 4 LED indicators on the front panel should light or start flashing. The Selector 2 is now ready for operation.

POWER Switch ①
Controls power to the Printer Selector 2.

INPUT Switch ②
Slide this switch to position 1 or 2 to manually select INPUT CHANNEL 1 ⑦ or INPUT CHANNEL 2 ⑧. The Selector 2 will remain locked to the selected input channel until the position of the INPUT switch is changed.

If the switch is in the center (AUTO) position, the Selector 2 will sequentially scan the input channels. As input is detected, the INPUT indicator lights steadily and the Selector locks on to that channel as long as the channel transmits.

OUTPUT Switch ③
The initial setting of this switch at power-on determines whether OUTPUT CHANNEL 1 ⑪ or OUTPUT CHANNEL 2 ⑩ is selected. To manually select the channel, slide the OUTPUT switch to either position 1 or 2. Software control codes can also be used to change the channel settings.

DOCUMENT SEPARATOR Switch ④
When the Selector 2 is in automatic input scanning mode, the Selector 2 assumes that a document has ended if there is a 30-second time-out on the active channel, appends a document separator and then resumes the scan. This 3-position switch allows to you to decide whether a document separator will be used at all, and if so, whether it will be FORM FEED or BELL.

When the BELL character is used, the printer may beep provided that it recognizes the character. When the FORM FEED character is selected and the printer recognizes and responds to it, the next document will be printed on a new page. Set this switch to OFF position to disable use of any document separator.

CODE Switch ⑤
Set this switch to TAN position if TANDY printers are used. Otherwise, this switch should be set to EML emulation position for most printers, including EPSON ® printers and compatibles.

If you connect the Selector 2 to two printers of difference makes, set this switch to the one you normally use to print graphics.

COMMAND Switch ⑥
Set this switch to the ON position to enable the Selector 2 to recognize software control codes. Set to OFF to disable control code recognition.

Normal Operation

The Printer Interface Selector 2 can be connected to any computer and printer with Centronics-compatible parallel interfacing. If you are using an IBM or IBM-compatible printer, you will need to set the Selector 2 to EML mode using the control codes explained in the section on **Software Control Codes.**

1. After connecting the cables, first turn on the selector 2, the computers, and then the printers in this order.
   In normal operation or after a power interruption, the selector 2 must be turned on first.
2. Set the INPUT switch to AUTO position. Set the OUTPUT switch to the output channel number you want to use.
3. Set the CODE switch to TAN if you are using a Tandy Printer or EML for an IBM-compatible printer.

The INPUT indicators will start flashing to show the corresponding input channels being scanned. When the Selector 2 detects the data sent from the computer, the corresponding input channel indicator lights (steadily) and the Selector 2 locks on the channel as long as it transmits. If data transmission stops for a period of 30 seconds, the Selector 2 will assume that this is the end of the document and append a document separator, then resume scanning. (Refer to the **DOCUMENT SEPARATOR Switch** for details.)

When 2 computers attempt to send data simultaneously, the Selector 2 locks on the channel which is currently being scanned. The second computer will wait in queue until data transmission from the active computer stops.

You can override the automatic selection of an input channel by setting the INPUT switch to position 1 or 2. In this way, the channel number you select will be used and the second channel will not be served.

The ON LINE/OFF LINE and FAULT status conditions of the printers are reflected to the computer through the Selector 2. A printer can be set to OFF LINE temporarily while printing is in progress when you need to replace the paper. As long as the power is not turned off, no data will be lost in any case. Also, the INPUT switch or OUTPUT switch can be changed during printing. For example, if one printer runs out of paper while printing, simply flip the OUTPUT switch to the next position to start printing with the second printer.

Graphic Printing

No special arrangement is required for printing graphics if your computer is a Tandy computer or an IBM PC or PC-compatible. When you experience an abnormal graphics printout, first check that the COMMAND switch on the rear panel was in the OFF position before you began printing.

Software Control Codes

The Selector 2 allows you to control selection of output channels and command recognition within its application program. You have to send it the correct control codes as if the codes were part of the data to be printed. These codes are non-printable characters which are recognized by the Selector 2, but may not be forewarded to the printer.

Before using the control codes, be sure the COMMAND switch on the rear panel is set to ON. The function of each control code is explained below:

ESC + '+' + 0 (Decimal value : 27 43 0)
ESC + '+' + 1 (Decimal value : 27 43 1)

These 2 sequences select output channels 1 and 2, respectively. Type the following program segment written in Microsoft BASIC to see how these codes function.

```
10 LPRINT CHR$ (27); "+"; CHR$ (0);
20 LPRINT "DATA TO PRINTER 1"
30 LPRINT CHR$ (27); "+"; CHR$ (1);
40 LPRINT "DATA TO PRINTER 2"
50 END
```

Now run this program. The printout on printer 1 (connected to output channel 1) should look like this:

```
DATA TO PRINTER 1
```

And the printout on printer 2 should show:

```
DATA TO PRINTER 2
```

ESC '$' (Decimal value : 27 36)

This control code prevents the Selector 2 from recognizing forecoming control codes. This code is valuable when you want to send graphic data

and the possibility exists that the Selector might interpret some bit patterns as valid control codes. Type the next program and RUN it.

```
10 LPRINT CHR$ (27); "+"; CHR$ (0);
20 LPRINT "DATA TO PRINTER 1"
30 LPRINT CHR$ (27); "$";
40 LPRINT CHR$ (27); "+"; CHR$ (1);
50 LPRINT "DATA ALSO TO PRINTER 1"
60 END
```

Only printer 1 prints.

```
DATA TO PRINTER 1
DATA ALSO TO PRINTER 1
```

DC2 (Decimal value : 18)

This code is recognized only in TAN mode (selected by the ESC + '!' command). When recognized it is functionally the same as the control code sequence ESC + '$'.

RS (Decimal value: 30)

Recognized only in TAN mode, this code causes the Selector 2 to recover command recognition when it is turned off by the DC2 code.

ESC + "!" (Decimal value : 27 33)

Sending this code toggles the Selector 2 from Tandy mode to EML mode and from EML to Tandy mode.

Control Codes *v.* Switches

All software control codes if recognized by the Selector 2 **override** the panel switch settings. This sometimes results in a conflict between the switch settings and the actual status of the unit. In such a case, you can always clear the conflict by resetting the switch.

For example, if printer 1 is printing and you notice that the OUTPUT switch is in position 2, change the position of the switch by flipping it 2 times to direct printing to printer 2. Or, flip it once to clear the conflict.

The indicator LED's always show the actual channels selected.

Appendices

Troubleshooting Guide

When the Selector 2 does not function as expected, first turn off power to the computer, printer and the Selector 2.

1. Check that the interface cables are in place and locked.
2. Be sure you have the right cables and they are connected with a firm push.

After making these checks, power on the equipment to see if the Selector 2 works now.

If the device still does not work, try to start a closed-loop diagnostic self-test by following the steps below:

(1) Turn off all power.
(2) Connect output channel 1 to input channel 1.
(3) Connect output channel 2 to input channel 2.
(4) Set the panel switches to select input channel 1, output channel 1 and FORM FEED as the document separator.
(5) Switch on the power, wait until the LEDs light. Then toggle the COMMAND switch 3 times within 2 seconds.

The closed-loop self-test first scans the LEDs at a speed of 1 second per LED, then all 4 LEDs light steadily. If this is not the case, contact the Radio Shack store from which you purchased the Printer Selector 2. Otherwise, the computer or printer used should be checked to ensure that their parallel ports are operating properly.

Specifications

Power consumption	1.6 W
Adapter	Input, AC 117-volt (AC 240-volt for Australia) Output, DC 9-volt/200mA (DC 9-volt/300mA for Australia) Plug, center negative, barrel type
Output cables	Not provided. Radio Shack Cat. No. 26-4401 recommended.
Size	188 (W) × 160 (D) × 55 (H) mm
Weight	0.8 kg

Pin No.	Signal	Direction	Description
31	$\overline{\text{INIT}}$	In	When the level of this signal becomes LOW, the Selector 2 is reset to its initial state and the buffer is cleared. At the same time, a 70μS width negative-going INIT pulse is sent to the printer currently selected.
32	$\overline{\text{FAULT}}$	Out	This pin reflects the state of the FAULT line in the printer currently selected.
33	$\overline{\text{INIT}}$	In	Same as 31, for Tandy Computer
34-36	NC	—	Not used.

Table 2. Output Channels 1 and 2 Connector Pin Assignments

Pin No.	Signal	Direction	Description
1	$\overline{\text{STROBE}}$	Out	Generate 7μS width STROBE pulse.
2	DATA 1	Out	These signals represent information of the 1st through 8th bits of parallel data respectively.
3	DATA 2	Out	
4	DATA 3	Out	
5	DATA 4	Out	
6	DATA 5	Out	
7	DATA 6	Out	
8	DATA 7	Out	
9	DATA 8	Out	
10	NC	—	Not used.
11	BUSY	In	Printer Selector 2 will send data only if this signal is LOW.
12, 13	NC	—	Not used.
14	—	—	Pulled HIGH by 2.2K resistor.
15	NC	—	Not used.
16	GND	—	Signal ground.
17	FG	—	Frame ground.
18	NC	—	Not used.
19 to 30	GND	—	Signal ground.
31	$\overline{\text{INIT}}$	Out	The level of this signal becomes LOW for 70μS if INIT pulse is received in the input.
32	$\overline{\text{FAULT}}$	In	The state of this line is reflected on the FAULT pins of the input connectors.
33	$\overline{\text{INIT}}$	Out	Same as 31, for Tandy Printers.
34	NC	—	Not used.

Parallel Interface

The Centronics-compatible parallel interfaces are described below.

Specifications

Synchronization : STROBE pulses
Handshaking : ACK or BUSY signals
Logic level : TTL level

Connectors

Input channels
Output channels

Connector Pin Assignment and Descriptions of Signals

Table 1. Input Channels 1 and 2 Connector Pin Assignments

Pin No.	Signal	Direction	Description
1	$\overline{\text{STROBE}}$	In	STROBE pulse to read data in.
2	DATA 1	In	These signals represent information of
3	DATA 2	In	the 1st through 8th bits of parallel data
4	DATA 3	In	respectively. Each signal is at HIGH
5	DATA 4	In	level when data is logical 1 and LOW
6	DATA 5	In	when logical 0.
7	DATA 6	In	
8	DATA 7	In	
9	DATA 8	In	
10	$\overline{\text{ACK}}$	Out	Approx. 11μS pulse-rising edge indicates that data has been received and that the Selector 2 is ready to accept other data.
11	BUSY	Out	A HIGH signal indicates that the Selector 2 cannot receive data.
12	—	—	Grounded.
13	$\overline{\text{BUSY}}$	Out	In TAN mode, this signal is the complement of BUSY. In EML mode, this is the SELECT signal. A HIGH signal indicates that the channel is selected or locked to.
14, 15	—	NC	Not used.
16	—	—	Grounded.
17	FG	—	Frame ground.
18	+5V	—	DC + 5V
19 to 30	GND	—	Signal ground.

Pin No.	Signal	Direction	Description
31	$\overline{\text{INIT}}$	In	When the level of this signal becomes LOW, the Selector 2 is reset to its initial state and the buffer is cleared. At the same time, a 70μS width negative-going INIT pulse is sent to the printer currently selected.
32	$\overline{\text{FAULT}}$	Out	This pin reflects the state of the FAULT line in the printer currently selected.
33	$\overline{\text{INIT}}$	In	Same as 31, for Tandy Computer
34-36	NC	—	Not used.

Table 2. Output Channels 1 and 2 Connector Pin Assignments

Pin No.	Signal	Direction	Description
1	$\overline{\text{STROBE}}$	Out	Generate 7μS width STROBE pulse.
2	DATA 1	Out	These signals represent information of the 1st through 8th bits of parallel data respectively.
3	DATA 2	Out	
4	DATA 3	Out	
5	DATA 4	Out	
6	DATA 5	Out	
7	DATA 6	Out	
8	DATA 7	Out	
9	DATA 8	Out	
10	NC	—	Not used.
11	BUSY	In	Printer Selector 2 will send data only if this signal is LOW.
12, 13	NC	—	Not used.
14	—	—	Pulled HIGH by 2.2K resistor.
15	NC	—	Not used.
16	GND	—	Signal ground.
17	FG	—	Frame ground.
18	NC	—	Not used.
19 to 30	GND	—	Signal ground.
31	$\overline{\text{INIT}}$	Out	The level of this signal becomes LOW for 70μS if INIT pulse is received in the input.
32	$\overline{\text{FAULT}}$	In	The state of this line is reflected on the FAULT pins of the input connectors.
33	$\overline{\text{INIT}}$	Out	Same as 31, for Tandy Printers.
34	NC	—	Not used.

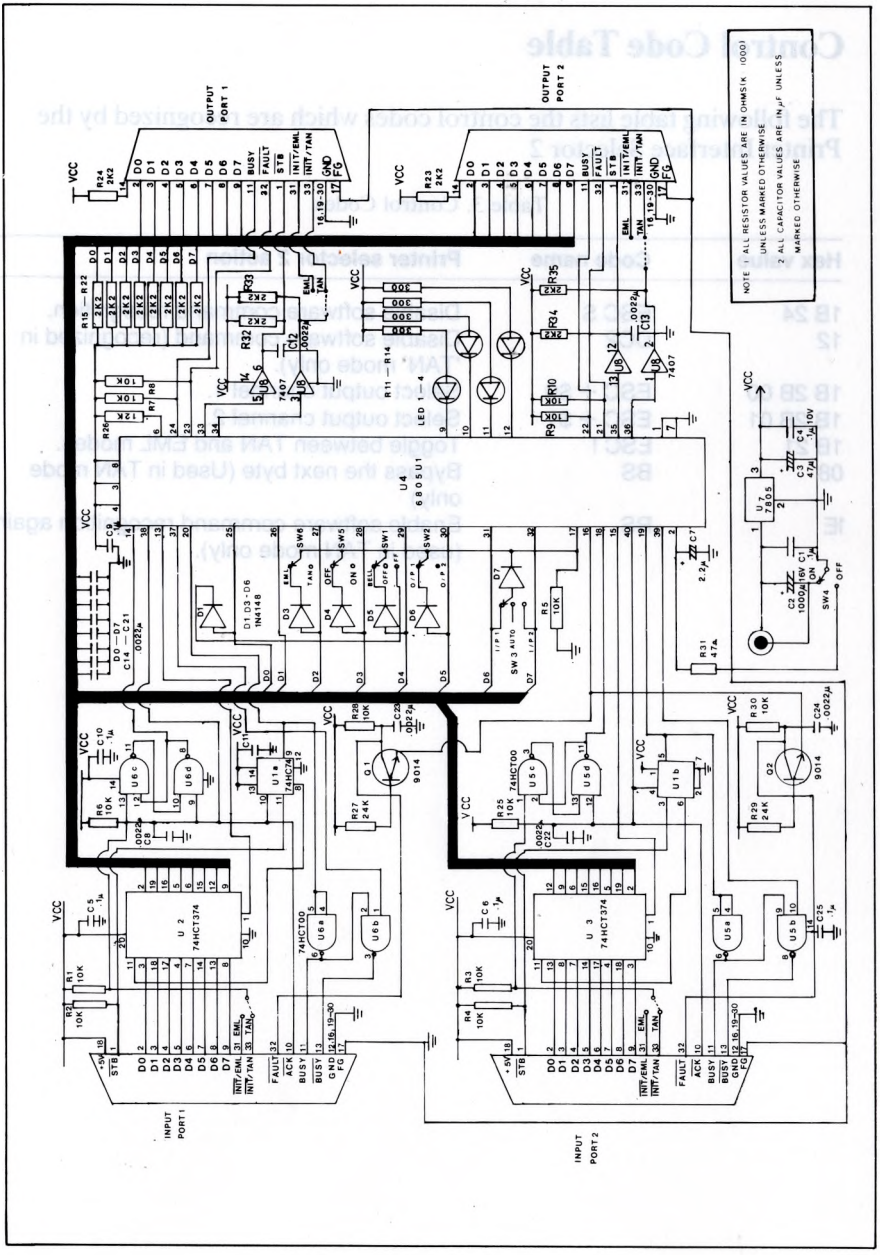
Control Code Table

The following table lists the control codes which are recognized by the Printer Interface Selector 2

Table 3. Control Codes

Hex value	Code name	Printer selector 2 action
1B 24	ESC $	Disable software command recognition.
12	DC2	Disable software command (recognized in 'TAN' mode only).
1B 2B 00	ESC + $0	Select output channel 1.
1B 2B 01	ESC + $1	Select output channel 2.
1B 21	ESC !	Toggle between TAN and EML modes.
08	BS	Bypass the next byte (Used in TAN mode only)
1E	RS	Enable software command recognition again (used in TAN mode only).

SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM



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ADDENDUM

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It is recommended that you leave the COMMAND switch (located on the rear side of the Selector) in the ON position except when you want to print graphics.

If unusual print output is observed when printing graphics with the COMMAND switch in the OFF position and the CODE switch is in the TAN position, selecting the EML position on the CODE switch will solve the problem.

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